

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (USPN 6,584,502) (hereinafter "Natarajan").

The grounds for rejecting the claims in the application are citations to materials in Natarajan placed next to elements of the claims. No explanation is provided to show how the cited materials in Natarajan are applicable for rejecting the claims. The discussion below will address the claim rejections to the best of Applicant's understanding.

Claim 1 recites:

A method comprising:
identifying multiple policies to be combined together;
determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple
policies;
adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set; and
resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy and
including the preferred policy in the merged policy set.

Natarajan describes a technique for providing automatic event notification of changing network conditions to network elements in an adaptive, feedback-based data network.

For rejecting "determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies" in Claim 1, the Office Action cites Natarajan at col. 14, lines 5-8, which states:

The policy engine 254 is a decision-making (logical) component of the feedback-based adaptive network of the present invention. An example of a policy engine 254 is illustrated in FIG. 5C of the drawings.

Element 254 is labeled as "Policy Engine". FIG. 5C shows that policy engine 254 includes a policy server 254a and application specific plug-in policy modules 254b-254e. However, the cited materials in Natarajan do not disclose determining conflicts among the policies.

For rejecting "resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy and including the preferred policy in the merged policy set", the Office Action cites Natarajan at col. 14, lines 5-19 and lines 33-40. These materials further describe policy engine 254 and application specific plug-in policy modules 254b-254e. However, these materials do not disclose resolving conflicting policies.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Natarajan and is allowable. Given that Claims 2-13 depend from Claim 1, Claims 2-13 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 14 recites:

A method comprising:
identifying multiple policies to be combined together;
determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;
adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;
arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies;
determining an intersection of the conflicting policies; and
selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policies.

In rejecting Claim 14, the Office Action cites some of the same materials in Natarajan used for rejecting Claim 1. As discussed above, Natarajan fails to disclose “determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies”.

Additionally, for rejecting “arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies”, the Office Action cites Natarajan at col. 18, lines 40-59; and FIG. 2, elements 270, 274A, and 274B. Col. 18, lines 40-59 in Natarajan describes a feedback-based adaptive network that includes a policy engine and network elements. Element 270 corresponds to an event server and elements 274A and B correspond to event handlers on two separate network elements. However, none of these cited materials discloses arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies.

For rejecting “selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policies”, the Office Action cites Natarajan at col. 30, lines 5-35. The cited materials describe a frame relay CIR policy. Particularly, the materials disclose that the frame relay CIR policy “may run continuously and concurrently with other policies and/or user applications”. (Natarajan, col. 30, lines 15-17). However, the cited materials do not disclose selecting a preferred policy.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 14 is not anticipated by Natarajan and is allowable. Given that Claims 15-19 depend from Claim 14, Claims 15-19 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 20 recites:

An apparatus comprising:
a storage device configured to store a merged policy set; and

a management module coupled to the storage device and configured to identify multiple policies to be merged into the merged policy set, wherein the management module adds non-conflicting policies to the merged policy set and resolves conflicts among conflicting policies.

For rejecting “resolves conflicts among conflicting policies” in Claim 20, the Office Action cites Natarajan at col. 13, lines 45-57; and col. 14, 2-15. The materials at col. 13 describe application specific plug-in policy modules, but fail to disclose resolving conflicts among conflicting policies. As stated above, the materials at col. 14 further describe the policy engine and the application specific plug-in policy modules but fail to disclose resolving conflicting policies. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20 is not anticipated by Natarajan and is allowable. Given that Claims 21-26 depend from Claim 20, Claims 21-26 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 27 recites:

One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

identify multiple policies to be combined together in a merged policy set;

determine whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;

include non-conflicting policies in the merged policy set;

resolve conflicting policies by:

selecting an allowed policy range;

selecting a preferred policy range that is included in the allowed policy range; and

including the preferred policy range in the merged policy set.

The Office Action essentially cites the same materials in Natarajan as those used for rejecting Claims 1, 14, and 20. As discussed above, none of these cited materials describes determining conflicts among the policies, resolving conflicting

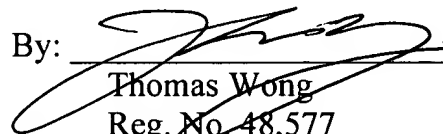
policies, or selecting a preferred policy. Thus, for the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 27 is not anticipated by Natarajan and is allowable. Given that Claims 28-29 depend from Claim 27, Claims 28-29 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Claims 1-29 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 2/17/2004

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